

Syria and UAE plan peace mission

DAMASCUS (R) — The presidents of Syria and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will send envoys to Tehran in a new effort to end the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war, sources close to a UAE delegation said Wednesday. UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad ended four days of talks here which also sought ways to reconcile political foes. Syria and Iraq, Mr. Assad and Sheikh Zayed's envoys would try to persuade Iran to accept a U.N. Security Council resolution which last month ordered a ceasefire in the war, the sources said. Sheikh Zayed, who later flew to West Germany on a private visit, appeared "more optimistic" after receiving views from Iraq President Saddam Hussein, diplomatic sources said. Sheikh Zayed had extended his stay in Damascus for an extra day to wait for a response to a message he sent to President Hussein. Iraq said it would accept the U.N. ceasefire call if Iran complied, but Iran has neither accepted nor formally rejected the U.N. move.

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Holiday announced

AMMAN (Petra) — All ministries, government departments and public institutions will have a holiday on Tuesday, Aug. 25, in observance of the new Hijri (Islamic) year 1408, according to an official communiqué issued by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. Religious ceremonies will be held in mosques to mark the occasion.

Klibi visits Libya

TUNIS (R) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi left for Libya on Wednesday to confer with Colonel Muammar Qadhafi, league sources said. The sources gave no indication of the purpose of Mr. Klibi's visit to Tripoli, which they said was in response to an invitation from Col. Qadhafi.

Iraqi pipeline opened

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal inaugurated the second Iraq-Turkey oil pipeline on Wednesday, saying it was one of the most important projects of his four years in power. The semi-official Anatolian agency said Mr. Ozal was speaking at a ceremony at Yumurtak, the Mediterranean terminal where the 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) pipeline terminates. Gulf oil sources say the boost in Baghdad's export capacity makes it potentially the second largest producer in OPEC to Saudi Arabia.

Police clear Kach

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police cleared militant Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach party on Wednesday of accusations that it illegally trained teenagers in the use of arms at a summer camp set up to promote its anti-Arab views, police sources said. Police last week began investigating the summer camp after a photograph in the newspaper *Yedioth Ahronot* purported to show a youngster in Kach T-shirt training with an Uzi submachine-gun.

23 hurt in grenade attack on birthday party

BEIRUT (AP) — An unidentified assailant tossed a hand grenade at a house in a southern village where a group of youth were celebrating a birthday party, and police said Wednesday 23 people were injured. The short police statement said the attack in the village of Kfar Rounman was carried out late Tuesday. The victims were admitted to hospitals in the nearby market town of Nabatiyeh. Extremists have banned birthday and wedding parties in the predominantly Shi'ite sector of South Lebanon, claiming that they reflect the western way of life which contradicts their beliefs.

2 more of septuplets die

LIVERPOOL (AP) — The fifth and smallest Halton septuplet, a baby girl named Erin, died Wednesday, the Mersey regional health authority said. Erin weighed only 425 grammes when the septuplets were born 15 weeks prematurely on Saturday. They were the first septuplets born in Britain. Earlier Wednesday, her sister, Christy, who weighed 481 grammes also died at Liverpool maternity hospital where the surviving babies have been on respirators in the neonatal intensive care unit.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation
جريدة الأردن تأسست عن المؤسسة العربية الأردنية للرأي

S. Arabia frees 86 held in liquor bust

RIYADH (AP) — All but one of 87 foreigners who allegedly violated Saudi Arabia's ban on liquor were being released gradually and told they must leave the country. Western diplomatic sources said Wednesday. They said they did not know if the host of Friday's party in the port city of Jeddah at which the group was detained, identified by security sources as an American, would be freed. It was widely believed in Riyadh that he should be indicted on charges of violating the kingdom's laws. But the diplomatic sources stressed they had no information to confirm this and declined to give his name or profession. The U.S. consulate in Jeddah refused to identify him. Apart from the host, the foreigners were being freed on condition they leave the country soon, the sources said. The women were released Tuesday, and some of the men were being freed Wednesday, to their "sponsors," Saudi nationals who vouch for them. The process was slow because some were unable to contact sponsors who were abroad on vacation. More than three million foreigners live and work in Saudi Arabia.



Peta photo

KING MEETS BRITISH AIR CHIEF:

His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, receives on Wednesday British Royal Air Force Chief of Staff General Sir David Craig, who arrived here on Monday. The audience was attended by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb, Royal

Jordanian Air Force Commander Lieutenant-General Ihsan Shurdan and British Ambassador to Jordan Arthur John Coles. Field Marshal Sharif Zaid earlier held talks with Sir David, Sir David and a delegation accompanying him visited front-line positions of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division on Wednesday.

WAJ chief visits Khirbet Al Samra, promises to solve area's problems

AMMAN (I.T.) — The acting president of the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), Mr. Tazil Al Bilbeisi, inspected Khirbet Al Samra waste-water treatment plant on Wednesday in the course of an inspection tour of water projects and facilities in the Zarqa area.

According to a correspondent of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, who accompanied Mr. Bilbeisi on Wednesday's tour, the plant has a total of 32 open ponds and which altogether have an overall capacity of 18,400 cubic metres.

A Petra report said Mr. Bilbeisi discussed with the local inhabitants their needs of potable water and promised to take proper measures to deal with the bad smell problem.

Later, Mr. Bilbeisi inspected

an agricultural area adjoining the waste-water treatment plant. The area is planted with two million forest and fruit trees irrigated with treated waste water.

The Khirbet Al Samra plant, set-up on a 7,000-dunum area, treats waste water from the Zarqa River and sewerage networks in Amman and Zarqa.

Mr. Bilbeisi also called at the Zarqa Water Department and was briefed by WAJ Director Kamal Zou'bi on services offered to the public by the department.

Mr. Bilbeisi was accompanied on the tour by Acting Governor of Zarqa Khaled Bawali and directors of various government departments in the region.

Glass expects better U.S.-Syrian relations to help other hostages

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is in no hurry to make a peace mission to Iran and Iraq and wants first to be certain what the Iranians will discuss, U.N. aids said Wednesday.

They sought to discourage speculation that the mission might take place within a few weeks, before the General Assembly begins on Sept. 15.

Iran's U.N. delegate Said Rajaei Khorassani told Mr. Perez de Cuellar last Friday that he was welcome to visit Tehran, but U.N. officials said a written confirmation and further details of the invitation requested by the secretary general had not yet been delivered.

One aide said this was not surprising. He surmised that the Iranian authorities were considering terms for the proposed talks with Mr. Perez de Cuellar, whose 1985 peace plan they have described as a practical solution to the Gulf conflict.

Like the Security Council resolution adopted on July 20, this called for a ceasefire and withdrawal of forces on both sides to international boundaries. Other elements included a proposed inquiry into the origins of the war, which Iran claims was started by Iraq in September 1980.

A U.N. official said Wednesday that the secretary general was asked what the secretariat was doing about conditions for his meeting in Tehran. "We want action and if that takes time we will wait," the official said. "We don't want to discuss 1984, 1985 and 1986, but the present and the future."

Both U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain had urged Mr. Perez de Cuellar to undertake a Gulf mission.

her to see yet another one come out, and Terry is still held. Believe me, I feel for Terry and Peggy so much that I can hardly speak."

Looking pale after being held 62 days, blindfolded and managed most of the time, Mr. Glass said he was in good health, though he was tired from going two nights without sleep before he arrived in London to be reunited with his wife and five children.

He said he had managed to escape while his guards slept, but he had been told by Syrian officials and American diplomats after he was taken from Beirut to Damascus that there had been a rescue towards gaining his freedom.

That he said, was encouraging for the foreigners still held in Lebanon.

"I think the only encouragement you could give them (the captives) now is that for a number of reasons Syria seems much more determined to obtain the release of hostages in Lebanon," Mr. Glass said.

"I'm told by Syrians and American diplomats in Damascus that the political environment between the United States and Syria is improving and Syria is much more active on the ground in



Charles Glass

Beirut in trying to obtain the release of hostages, and so in a sense that is encouraging."

Syrian troops have searched for captives in areas of Beirut they control, and Damascus is thought to have tried to exert pressure through Iran on groups holding foreign captives.

After Mr. Glass' escape, 24 foreigners are missing and believed held captive, plus Terry Waite, the Anglican church envoy who disappeared in Beirut

(Continued on page 3)

U.S. task force sneaks in 3 reflagged tankers to Gulf

BAHRAYN (Agencies) — The third U.S.-escorted convoy of Kuwaiti tankers sailed up the Gulf behind a screen of mine-seeking helicopters Wednesday, following a pre-dawn departure designed to catch Iranian naval forces off guard.

"They have really fooled us all," said a Gulf-based shipping expert upon learning that the three tankers and three warships, with a fourth tanker tagging along, had passed through the dangerous Strait of Hormuz.

Off Dubai, some 80 kilometres farther on, the convoy met up with the assault carrier *Guadalcanal*, which apparently was to lead it the rest of the way to Kuwait. Its eight RH-53D Sea

Stallion helicopters were scouting the waters ahead for floating explosives.

It was not known whether the convoy would anchor overnight, as the last convoy had done, to avoid nighttime travel through waters possibly infested with mines.

The tankers sailed less than a day after a Norwegian-operated tanker, the 20,578-tonne *Oscos Sierra*, was hit by at least one rocket grenade fired by Iranian commandos in a speedboat at the outer entrance to the Hormuz.

Iran blamed others for an attack on the Liberian-registered chemical tanker, saying it was "carried out by those who intended to escalate tension in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea (Gulf of Oman)."

(Continued on page 3)

Solarz and Iraqi leaders hold talks on Gulf developments and ceasefire call

NICOSIA (Agencies) — U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz was received by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad on Wednesday after he discussed with the foreign minister Gulf developments in the light of U.N. ceasefire call which Iran did not endorse.

Mr. Solarz arrived in Baghdad Tuesday night. He met Wednesday with Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

INA said Mr. Solarz was later received by President Hussein in the presence of U.S. Ambassador David Newton. It gave no details of their talks.

The United States and Iraq have recently enjoyed good ties despite the May 17 Iraqi missile

implementation."

Mr. Aziz on Tuesday sent a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, urging the United Nations to enforce the ceasefire resolution or move to a second resolution that would impose sanctions on the party that reject it.

Iraq has accepted the U.S.-backed resolution, which calls for a ceasefire in the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war, withdrawal of troops to the international border, an exchange of prisoners of war and the setting up of a commission to decide who started the conflict.

Iraq neither accepted nor rejected the resolution.

(Continued on page 3)

Hess said to have left note; family doubts suicide theory

WEST BERLIN (Agencies) — The Western allies confirmed on Wednesday that Hitler's former deputy Rudolf Hess was choked to death in Berlin's Spandau Prison on a length of electrical cord and said a note he had left clearly implied suicide.

In a statement, the allies cited an autopsy carried out on Wednesday in the presence of officials of the Soviet, U.S., British and French authorities responsible for guarding Hess during his 40-year imprisonment for war crimes.

The note which was found on the body clearly implies that Hess planned to take his own life. Investigations are continuing into the precise circumstances surrounding the death, the statement said.

British spokesman Purdon was asked whether the note was a "suicide note." He responded by saying that any such information would have to come from the Hess family.

"It's up to the family to decide whether the contents of the note can be given to the press or not," Purdon said.

The allied military authorities would not say when Hess' body would be released to his relatives in West Germany for burial at a family grave in Wunsiedel, Bavaria.

He was trapped by police, alone in a local school.

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The allied military authorities would not say when Hess' body would be released to his relatives in West Germany for burial at a family grave in Wunsiedel, Bavaria.

(Continued on page 3)

U.N. peace mission to Gulf is on hold

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(Continued on page 3)

Shamir to present 'new' Mideast proposal to Ceausescu

Israeli premier exhorts Romanian Jews to emigrate to Jewish state

SINAIA, Romania (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, maintaining his opposition to an international conference on the Middle East, will present Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu on Thursday with new proposals for regional peace, a senior Israeli source said.

Family lawyer Alfred Seidl, in an interview with AP on Wednesday, also cast doubt on the official version that said Hess wrapped the cord around his neck.

British spokesman Purdon was asked whether the note was a "suicide note." He responded by saying that any such information would have to come from the Hess family.

"Shamir wants to go to Ceausescu with new ideas to break the impasse," the source, who asked not to be named, told Reuters. "We are interested in coming out here with some kind of formula that would enable things to go forward."

The source refused to specify Mr. Shamir's new proposal, saying that would jeopardise the leaders' final meeting. "A breakthrough is possible if Ceausescu is prepared to act as a go-between us and Arab leaders," he said.

Mr. Shamir, asked if he had

in exploring new ideas, he said.

"Ceausescu convinced him there are changes in the Arab World. This is a great thing, because until now Shamir was doubtful of any changes," he said.

Another Israeli source said Mr. Shamir proposed to Mr. Ceausescu on Tuesday that he accept a conference that would include the United States and the Soviet Union but exclude U.N. participation.

52 congressmen urge U.S. support for Iranian rebels

WASHINGTON (AP) — A group of 52 members of Congress, in a letter released Tuesday, urged Secretary of State George Shultz to support groups fighting to overthrow the government of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The letter asked President Ronald Reagan's administration to adopt a policy that would recognise "the Iranians who have not surrendered to the ruling dictatorship, who resist at the risk of their lives."

In particular, the group of Republicans and opposition Democrats asked Mr. Shultz to closely examine the People's Mujahedeen of Iran, considered the largest and best-organised of the anti-Khomeini groups.

Democratic Congressman Mervyn M. Dymally, who initiated the letter, said he welcomed indications that the State Department was revising its view of the Mujahedeen, a group once labelled as terrorists. Mr. Dymally has consistently lobbied for administration recognition of the Mujahedeen.

"We are pleased to learn ... that an understanding of the role of resistance, namely by the anti-Khomeini People's Mujahedeen

sponsible for killing several Americans in Iran in the 1970s.

In recent months the Mujahedeen has stepped up its military offensive against Khomeini's forces, launching cross-border attacks from bases in Iraq.

The letter said that a shift in the emphasis of U.S. policy toward Iran would "enhance U.S. credibility in the region," which was damaged by revelations that the administration sold weapons to Khomeini's government.

"We have an opportunity now to put forth a policy that will place us on the side of the people when the change in Iranian leadership comes," according to the letter.

The signatories said they hoped "the effects of our past policy might offer a useful lesson for future relations with Iran."

Mr. Reagan has said that the U.S. arms sales to Iran began as an initiative to boost moderate forces within the Khomeini government and establish contacts with elements who might replace the current rulers.

The letter noted that future U.S. policy "should not ally us with rulers who use terror and the prolonging of war as instruments of control."

Kurdish rebels kill 25 Turkish villagers

ANKARA (R) — Separatist Kurdish rebels armed with automatic weapons, bazookas and grenades killed at least 25 civilians at a village in south-east Turkey Tuesday night, the semi-official Anatolian Agency said Wednesday.

Officials blamed the raid, at Kilicayi village near Erzurum in Sirt province, on insurgents of the illegal Workers Party of Kurdistan (PKK).

The agency said guerrillas approached a part of the village shortly before midnight and talked to two armed village guards before shooting them dead.

At the same time, another group attacked the village from a different direction, killing at least 23 people including the district headman and wounding more than 30.

The agency said top military and civilian officials, including Interior Minister Yildirim Akbulut and regional Governor Hayri

Kozakcioglu, had gone to the village.

Mr. Kozakcioglu was appointed last month to coordinate security after a series of massacres by the rebels, who are fighting for autonomy for Turkey's estimated eight million Kurds.

Since the beginning of the year, the PKK has concentrated its attacks on civilians, especially village guards, headmen and their families.

Officials say the aim is to break links between what the rebels call Kurdistan and the central government in Ankara and to destabilise the area and frighten villagers into joining the rebel cause.

The guerrilla offensive was launched in August 1984 with coordinated raids on Erzurum and Demirli in Hakkari province.

The highest toll in a single attack came when 30 villagers were killed at Pinarlik village in Mardin province in June. Official reports say the rebels responsible

for this and other killings have been caught or killed.

In a separate development nearly 200 inmates of a jail in south-east Turkey went on hunger strike for better conditions, the Anatolian Agency said Tuesday.

It reported the protest by 176 detainees at Gaziantep Prison after a visit there by journalists. The Justice Ministry organised the trip but barred representatives of foreign news organisations.

Journalists, accompanied by ministry officials, heard a string of complaints about conditions in the jail and its strict regime but the report made no reference to allegations of torture which have been common in the past.

Repeated charges of torture in prisons and police stations by human rights campaigners in Turkey and abroad have been rejected by the government, which says cases are isolated and all are prosecuted.

Iranians 'warn off' U.S., French aircraft

LONDON (R) — Iran said Wednesday its warships warned off two French-made jets and U.S. military aircraft which tried to observe their minesweeping operations in the Gulf of Oman.

The Iranian National News Agency (IRNA) said several U.S. and French warships had been monitoring the minesweeping work off the United Arab Emirates (UAE) port of Fujairah from a distance.

Two French-made Super-Etendard strike fighters, a U.S. fighter and a U.S. reconnaissance plane flew high over the Iranian minesweepers, it said, "but were forced to leave the area when faced with warnings from Iranian warships."

The agency, received in London, spoke of an "extensive presence of foreign fleets and aircraft" in the area where a mine-holed the U.S.-owned tanker Texaco Caribbean last week and another sunk a small supply boat on Saturday.

Iran says the United States or its allies were responsible for mining the area but Washington charges the mines were laid by Tehran.

U.S. warships are in the area to protect Kuwaiti tankers flying the Stars and Stripes and a French force led by the aircraft carrier Clemenceau, with super-Etendards on board, is also believed to be in the area.

Iran blamed others Wednesday for an attack on a Liberian-registered chemical tanker in the Gulf of Oman and restated that it would leave Gulf shipping if Iraq refrained from disrupting Iranian oil exports.

IRNA quoted an official spokesman as saying the attack on the Oso Sierra about 45 miles off the United Arab Emirates Tuesday was "a suspicious movement aimed at creating tensions in regional waters."

Shipping sources had said an Iranian patrol boat fired on the tanker by IRNA, received in London, said the attack "was carried out by those who intended to escalate tension in the Gulf and the Oman Sea (Gulf of Oman)."

IRNA did not say who was responsible, but Iran has repeatedly accused the United States of seeking to increase tensions in the Gulf.

The fact that he is being held without being charged or brought

Eitan challenges Knesset findings on Pollard case

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli spymaster who headed the espionage operation that bought U.S. military secrets from Jonathan Pollard on Wednesday challenged parliamentary findings and said he acted with approval from his superiors.

Rafi Eitan, formerly head of the secret Defence Ministry unit that supervised Pollard's spy activities, broke a public silence over the affair by saying he felt "responsible for my activities, but not guilty."

Israeli leaders contend the spying was a "rogue operation" conducted without the knowledge or approval of senior government figures.

"In all my activities I did not act without approval," Eitan said in an interview on Israel Radio. He refused to elaborate on who had granted him approval.

Pollard, an American Jew and former U.S. Navy civilian intelligence analyst, was sentenced to life in prison in March for selling U.S. military secrets to Israel. His wife, Anne Henderson-Pollard, received a five-year term for helping Pollard.

Eitan's remarks provoked anger among legislators who investigated the Pollard case and concluded in May that Israel's political echelon did not know about the bungled spy operation.

"We determined unanimously that Rafi Eitan carried full and direct responsibility for the decision to recruit Pollard," said Simcha Dinitz, a member of parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee that conducted the probe.

"He did not report to his superiors or receive any approval," Dinitz told Israel Radio.

Leftist legislator Ron Cohen, also a member of the parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defence

Committee, said he would demand clarifications from Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin over who approved Eitan's actions.

Eitan clearly says he acted with approval and permission in all aspects of this affair which caused so much damage to Israel. Cohen said, "The Israeli public ... must know who is truly responsible for spoiling relations with the United States."

The Pollard case had strained U.S.-Israeli relations and prompted expressions of concern from U.S. Jewish groups.

Officials in Washington were particularly angered by what were seen as rewards for Eitan and Avielle Sella, the air force officer who was indicted by a U.S. court for recruiting Pollard and subsequently promoted by Israel to head a prestigious air base.

Sella resigned the post after the

U.S. government banned officials from visiting the base or meeting its commander.

Officials were also angered by the naming of Eitan to Israel Chemicals Co., the largest state-owned company.

Eitan said Wednesday he regretted the damage to U.S.-Israeli ties caused by the spy case.

"I was sorry then, and I am sorry now," Eitan said. "The United States is our friendliest ally, and we must expand every effort to repair our relations."

Eitan said he also regretted the fate of the Pollard couple, both serving their terms in U.S. federal prisons.

"I will do whatever I can through legitimate means in helping the Israeli government ... in order to see the Pollards free, and if possible in Israel," he said. He refused to say whether the government was working on the couple's behalf.

Demjanjuk defence witness retracts testimony

TEL AVIV (AP) — A defence witness testifying in John Demjanjuk's trial admitted Wednesday she had been wrong when she discredited a key piece of prosecution evidence and apologised to the court for her error.

Under intense cross-examination, Anita Pritchard, 40, a doctoral student in psychology at the University of Pacific in Stockton, California, acknowledged she had wrongly accused of manipulating a photograph on an SS identity card to make it portray the defendant.

The Swedish-born Mrs. Pritchard said Monday she had studied a photocopy of Altman's montages and concluded he used lighting and shading techniques to make the SS picture look like later uncontested photos of Demjanjuk.

Demjanjuk, 67, is charged with being "Ivan the terrible," a brutal guard who tortured inmates and operated gas chambers at the Treblinka camp in Nazi-held Poland, where some 850,000 people died in 1942 and 1943.

Soviets, Israelis agree on regular contacts

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel and the Soviet Union have agreed to set up regular political contacts, Israeli officials have said, describing it as a possible step toward renewing diplomatic ties broken 20 years ago.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres announced he would probably meet in New York next month with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze. The two leaders are to address the U.N. General Assembly there.

Peres' chief political aide, Nirm Novick, said the decision to open a political exchange followed his meeting with Vladimir Tarasov, a Soviet Middle East expert. The two officials talked for 10 hours over the weekend in Bonn, West Germany.

"The Soviets are much more interested to understand why we are opposed to some of their positions and why we insist on some of ours. Maybe the essential thing is to clarify each other the possible limits," Novick added.

The Soviet Union broke diplomatic ties with Israel after the 1967 Middle East war.

Asked whether the Soviet initiative indicated a willingness to renew ties, an Israeli Foreign Ministry official said: "We do not know, but we are looking at the situation with guarded optimism."

Israelis hopes were reinforced last month by the arrival of a Soviet consular delegation, the first official Soviet group to visit the Jewish state in 20 years.

Novick said in an Israel Radio interview the Soviets "tell us they plan to open a direct channel of communication between our two countries."

"This is the application of an intention they have expressed previously to open a political dialogue with us," he said.

Novick told Israel television the Soviets agreed to "having other meetings and a much more regular approach to these meetings with the aim to turn this into a routine."

"The Soviets are much more interested to understand why we are opposed to some of their positions and why we insist on some of ours. Maybe the essential thing is to clarify each other the possible limits," Novick added.

As of Tuesday, the Chadians had not replied to the appeal, Amnesty International said.

In a separate development, Chad said Tuesday it had shot down a Libyan MiG fighter and a helicopter over the northern town of Aouzou Monday.

The aircraft were brought down by anti-aircraft fire, the military communiqué, broadcast on NDjamena Radio, said. It gave no further details.

Press watchdog urges Chad to free reporter

LONDON (Agencies) — The International Press Institute on Tuesday urged Chadian President Hissene Habre to release Salet Gaba, a journalist arrested in mid-July and held without any charge being announced.

Gaba has been a local correspondent in Chad for 20 years for the Associated Press and also has worked for the French news agency Agence France-Presse.

API Director Peter Galliner released a telex he sent Tuesday to Mr. Habre, saying the API is "deeply concerned" at Gaba's detention.

"The fact that he is being held without being charged or brought

to trial is profoundly disturbing and is a serious violation of basic human rights and press freedom," Mr. Galliner said in the telex.

"We call upon you to personally intercede in this matter and ensure that Mr. Gaba is immediately released."

The API represents journalists, publishers and editors in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas, and often issues appeals on press freedom issues.

Gaba, who is in his mid-40s, was arrested by the Chadian Security Services in mid-July and is believed held in the capital, N'Djamena.

The aircraft were brought down by anti-aircraft fire, the military communiqué, broadcast on NDjamena Radio, said. It gave no further details.

Amnesty International, the human-rights organisation, issued an urgent appeal on Gaba's behalf on July 31, asking the Chadian authorities to preserve his safety.

As of Tuesday, the Chadians had not replied to the appeal, Amnesty International said.

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The temperature will be around normal average, and the winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate to fresh and calm winds.

Wednesday rates Local self-buy rate in lire Belgian franc 89.30 Dutch guilder 144.1/166.6 French franc 55.3/56.3 Italian lira 25.5/25.9 Japanese yen (for 100) 234.4/238.9 Swiss franc 53.8/53.8 Turkish pound 222.9/227.7 U.S. dollar 341.5/345.5 W. German mark 184.9/188.3

Other flights (Terminal 2) 02:00 Muscat (add.) (GF) 06:20 Frankfurt (add.) (GF) 07:00 Cairo, London (BA) 08:00 Radzi (add.) (SV) 09:00 Damascus, Paris (AF) 09:30 Beirut (ME) 10:30 Baghdad (RD) 11:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK) 12:30 Tripoli (MG) 13:30 Dhahran (RH) 14:30 Dubai, Bahrain (RD) 15:30 London (BA) 16:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK) 17:30 Bahrain, Doha (GF) 18:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK) 19:30 Abu Dhabi (RD) 20:45 Rome (BA) 21:45 London (BA) 22:45 Paris (AF) 23:45 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (KJ) 23:50 Bangkok (RD)

Arrivals Royal Jordanian flights (Terminal 1) 01:15 Agaba (RD) 01:45 Cairo (RD) 02:15 Jeddah (RD) 03:15 Kuwait (RD) 04:15 Damascus, Paris (AF) 05:15 Beirut (ME) 06:15 Ankara, Istanbul (TK) 07:15 Tripoli (MG) 08:15 Dhahran (RH) 09:15 Dubai, Bahrain (RD) 10:15 London (BA) 11:15 Ankara, Istanbul (TK) 12:15 Tripoli (MG) 13:15 Bahrain, Doha (GF) 14:15 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (KJ) 15:15 Bangkok (RD)

Prayer times Fajr 04:00 (Sunrise) Dhuhr 12:39 Dhuhr 12:39 Asr 16:17 Asr 16:17 Magrib 20:55 Magrib 20:55 Isha 20:55

Churches St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 634950. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 634950. Church of the Assumption (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623341. Armenian Church (Church of the Resurrection) Amman, Tel. 623383. Armenian Cathedral Church of the Ascension, Tel. 713311. Folklife Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old; also mosaics from Madaba and Jenash (4th to 8th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Openings: 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651700. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Odeh's (Citadel Hill). Openings: 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays) 11:00 a.m.-5 p.m. (Sundays). Jordanian Lutheran Church Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir). Tel. 811295.

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National data system to be established

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government has taken preliminary steps towards setting up the Kingdom's first-ever data information system, which, when completed, will be vital for decision-makers in the public and private sectors.

The system will gather, integrate and process data received from various ministries, government departments and private sector organisations. Then, the information will be analysed and disseminated to the country's officials and leaders.

The system's establishment was called for in Jordan's five year development plan and is part of the current effort to reform administration.

Two information centres, which have already been set up, will feed the system with all processed data on national socio-economic, technical and scientific issues.

The first centre, at the Planning Ministry, will gather and analyse all information on socio-economic issues.

The second centre, situated at the Royal Scientific Society, will assimilate and process data related to the country's technical and scientific trends and issues.

In order to coordinate information among the two centres, a seven-member committee, chaired by Planning Minister Tamer Kanaan, was set up.

The committee, according to Dr. Kanaan, will be responsible for taking all decisions and actions needed for the system's operation.

The committee's formation followed a decision by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai last March in which he endorsed the formation of the national data information system.

The seven-member body has already endorsed a detailed working plan for phase one of the system's establishment, including the assessment of the available finances and manpower, setting standards for all data systems, and creating computer programmes to be used by ministries, government departments and private agencies.

He said that the committee has approved phase-one of the system which involves programming the internal activities of the Prime Ministry, as well as activities related to Jordan's foreign trade, price indexes, financial and monetary policies, debt servicing and systems, labour force, and establishing links with international data banks, and the setting up of national accounts. Marwan Muasher, Director of the Information Centre on National Socio-Economic Data at the Ministry of Planning, said that the programming of the internal activities of the Prime Ministry were began last month.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Masri honours Omani ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Masri hosted a lunch banquet Wednesday in honour of Omani Ambassador in Amman Khamis Ibn Hamad Ibn Seif Al Betashi on the occasion of the end of his term in Jordan. Mr. Masri, in a farewell speech, praised the brotherly relations between Jordan and Oman. He also presented a commemorative gift to the Omani ambassador. The banquet was attended by a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Jordan to join in anti-narcotics meeting

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan along with 15 Arab countries will take part in a meeting for directors of anti-narcotics departments in the Arab World which will be held in the Tunisian capital Friday. This session is a follow up to the implementation of the Arab anti-narcotic strategy approved by the Council of Arab Interior Ministers during their 1986 meeting. During the three-day conference, participants will discuss the latest developments in the international narcotics situation, the phenomenon of drug addiction in the region, and the measures necessary to combat these problems.

Reform and rehab centre opened in Mafraq

MAFRAQ (J.T.) — A new reformatory and rehabilitation centre was opened Wednesday by the Public Security Department (PSD) at Qafqa in Mafraq governorate. PSD Director General Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali attended the inauguration ceremony and made a speech in which he described the different facilities and equipment installed in the new centre. Later Lt.-Gen. Majali opened the new premises of the Mafraq Police Department and heard a speech by the director of the department about the new facilities and modern equipment installed. The Mafraq governor and mayor were among the guests invited to the two ceremonies.

University head meets U.S. Islamic group

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan Acting President Marwan Kamal received Wednesday a delegation representing Islamic societies in the U.S. Dr. Kamal briefed the delegation on the development and achievements of the university in various fields. The two sides also discussed establishing greater cooperation between the university and the union in the cultural fields, as well as exchanging publications and bulletins.

WMO to visit Jordan in October

AMMAN (Petra) — World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Secretary General Dr. G. Obasi is due here October 14 on an official visit to Jordan. During the visit Dr. Obasi will hold talks with the Department of Meteorology Director General Dr. Ali Abdo on boosting the scope of cooperation between Jordan and the Geneva-based WMO.



OMANI ENVOY LEAVES: Mr. Said Ibn Hamad Ibn Saoud, Chief of the Royal Court in Oman left Amman Wednesday after a brief visit. He conveyed a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said of Oman dealing with Jordanian-Omani relations, and discussed with the King developments in the Gulf war and means for ending the seven-year-old conflict. The Omani envoy was seen off by the chief of royal protocol, Fawaz Abu Tayeh, and Oman's ambassador to Jordan, Khamis Ibn Hamad Ibn Saff (Petra photo).

W. Germany to extend \$39m in soft loans

AMMAN (R) — West Germany has pledged to extend 70 million marks (\$39 million) in soft loans to Jordan for the next two years, a German diplomat said Wednesday.

Charge d'Affaires Hans Schiff said the loans, at 4.5 per cent interest, would have a 20-year maturity with a five-year grace period under an agreement signed in June.

He said \$19 million would go to a sewage project in north Jordan, due to start a five-day visit to Jordan August 30.

Centre works for nonviolent solutions to conflicts

By Nermene Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of American peace activists from the U.S.-based Resource Centre for Nonviolence wound up a three-day visit to Jordan Wednesday by calling for a "two-state solution" in the Israel-Palestine conflict as the best way to bring about a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

"We believe such a solution would be a workable compromise, meeting at least minimal demands by Israelis and Palestinians alike," said Mr. R. Scott Kennedy, leader of the nine-member delegation which left for the West Bank on the second leg of its regional tour. The group is the fifth one from the centre to tour the Middle East since 1981.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Kennedy conceded that a "two-state settlement" which would allow for national states for both Palestinians and Israelis, would fall short of either sides' "maximalist hopes."

Asked by one of the participants whether the committee in charge of the system will be issuing monthly releases informing the public on the scheme's operation, Dr. Kanaan replied negatively.

"Continuous briefings over what has been achieved is not favoured at these preliminary stages in order not to put the seven-member committee under pressures" from all the parties concerned in the scheme.

According to Mr. Kennedy, the centre created the tour for people who do not simply want to "reinforce partisanship for one side or the other," but who are prepared to see the Israelis, Palestinians and other Arab peoples face-to-face rather than as "depersonalised abstractions."

The group attempts to understand the conflict and its roots and examine peace prospects which are often neglected or obscured by the mainstream media in the United States.

"We are still in what we call the pre-movement phase," Mr. Kennedy said. "Direct impact will not happen until there is a public outcry such as the one that stopped the U.S. from intervening in Vietnam, and we are still far short from having that kind of impact."

But Mr. Kennedy pointed out that if he were a citizen of southern Lebanon, he would not be "overly concerned about nuclear

\$4.4 million to the Agricultural Credit Corporation and \$5.5 million to the Cities and Villages Development Bank.

The Industrial Development Bank would receive \$5.5 million while phase three of a feasibility study on oil shale production in Lajjoun, southern Jordan, would get four million.

West German Economic Cooperation Minister Hans Klein is due to start a five-day visit to Jordan August 30.

Voter card regulations revised

AMMAN (J.T.) — Applications for obtaining voter cards can be made by an individual outside the applicant's family, provided he or she produces documents of identification and two photographs, according to a circular issued by the Minister Interior Rajai Da-jani.

The new arrangement reverses earlier instructions for the governors that only the voter or a member of his family is allowed to fill out the form and apply for the voter card which is required for parliamentary elections.

In the circular, the minister said that the new measures were to be taken to facilitate the process for voters.

The Ministry of Interior announced earlier this month that October 31 will be the deadline for submitting applications for the voter cards.

The three month application process started on Aug. 1 and is being carried out at city registration departments.

Ministry of Interior Under Secretary Ahmad Aqileh said Monday that the names of people eligible to vote will be displayed until Aug. 22.

He said that complaints about names on the lists or grievances can be made to a special committee charged with revising the voter lists. This can be done until Sept. 1.

of the Boston/chapter of TecNica, an organisation aimed at extending technical assistance to Nicaragua, stressed that "our main objective is to get through to the peace movement in the U.S. and urge them to include the Middle East problem on the agenda."

Ms. Deena Hurwitz, the other leader of the tour maintains that "this is a two-step process at least. Our desire is to get people on the left to deal with the people on the right. To convince them to share ideas and reach a balanced approach. We organised for Rami Khouri to visit the United States in order to talk to people from all walks of life. We want to bring that voice to the people in the United States," she said.

"Mr. Khouri is a prominent Jordanian writer, publisher and expert on the Middle East affair.

Choosing the United States

for the Middle East, the group criticised its intervention in Third World affairs. Mr. Kennedy said, "I am for nuclear disarmament and the idea of nonintervention. The United States is going around intervening all over the world," he said.

Mr. Kennedy added that "there is a collaboration between the U.S. government and the press to keep people ignorant."

Ms. Corinne Whittatch, a consultant for Churches for Middle East Peace, and a member of the group, said that in the Iran-Iraq war, "Iran is the strategic prize. There lies the market, and if we, the U.S. government, can't have that prize now, we should stop the U.S.S.R. from doing that and that is why we provide Iran with arms, so that if they lose the war they would not be left too battered," she said.

According to team member Paul Allen, "We are noticing a positive steady change in the American public's awareness, more so than at any other time."

Americans, he said, are at least aware of "justice and responsibility."

If Americans were asked now

whether they thought both

Israelis and Palestinians should

have separate homelands, the

majority would answer favourably, he said. But if the people were asked about a homeland for the people of the P.L.O., there would be "microscopic support," he said.

Mr. Allen, a founding member

of the fear stems from the existing nuclear capacities in Israel and the potential for the conflict to expand and include the two superpowers. This theory, supported by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, predicts that a nuclear conflict between the superpowers could develop from a Middle East conflict, Mr. Kennedy said.

But Mr. Kennedy pointed out that if he were a citizen of southern Lebanon, he would not be "overly concerned about nuclear

war since conventional war is bad enough."

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Jordan Times

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More at stake for Israel

THE NEWS from Bucharest is that Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu has failed to convince Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir, currently on a visit there, of the usefulness of holding an international peace conference on the Middle East as a framework for Arab-Israeli negotiations. The Israeli premier's long-proclaimed stand comes as no surprise to us here, nor should it in fact surprise Mr. Ceausescu who also must have anticipated the rejection. The Israeli leader, who described his talks with Mr. Ceausescu as pleasant and friendly, moved to call for the return of all Jews in the world to Israel, surely an idea more appealing to him than any international conference or progress on the peace front.

Having thrown cold water on all supporters of the proposed conference, including his own coalition partners in the government, the bulk of the European Community and non-aligned states, not to mention the Soviet Union and the United States, it is becoming easier and easier for Shamir and company in the Likud bloc to continually change the subject. This, of course, is no small achievement for the Israeli rejectionists, thanks to their intransigence and the indifference of the world community. The international indifference is manifested mainly in the United States not having the heart to pressure Israel in any way possible, and in the European Community's refusal to take any step further than their own declarations and intentions on the idea of the international party.

Now, the Shamirs in Israel can roam the world telling Jews everywhere they have saved them from another "holocaust" called the international conference and then urge them to emigrate to Israel to make it stronger and less vulnerable to such suicidal thoughts. From this, we can only conclude that this camp must believe that making progress towards peace in the area is much more dangerous than integrating all the occupied territories into the land of "greater Israel." If this type of logic is allowed to flourish in the "never never" land of Israeli intransigence, then may God help us all.

It seems we are more in need of psychiatrists than Middle East experts to break the Arab-Israeli deadlock. For people like Shamir do not seem to follow the course of logic, at least, the logic that the rest of the world understands. However, whether or not Shamir finally succeeds in wiping out the conference's idea from the Middle East dictionary, reality suggests that at the end of the day, Shamir, and everybody else for that matter, will have to face up to the tragedy of the perpetual war and strife in the region.

We hope for everybody's sake that the way things in the area are going is not going to be Shamir's way. Israel should understand that it cannot continue to hide from peace behind a hail of bullets or a wall of rejectionism. It has more at stake than any other country in the region to reach a peaceful settlement with the Arab side. But if the Israelis insist on their rejectionism and abdication, they will have only themselves to blame when the opportunity for peace is lost far ever and ever.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Fruitless Romanian effort

ON the eve of his visit to Romania, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir declared that he was sticking to his position with regard to the proposed international Middle East peace conference. Shamir said he continues to reject the idea of the conference through which the Arabs seek to establish peace. In other words, Shamir proves that he is still scoffing at the international community's will and its resolutions. He is telling the world openly that he does not want to recognise the rights of the Palestinian people and that he wants to maintain Israel's occupation of Arab land. Reports from Bucharest said that Shamir's talks with the Romanian president dwelt on the current impasse in the efforts to arrive at peace in the Middle East. Romania by now has no doubt realised that Shamir was responsible for the deadlock, and his rejection of the conference idea means placing obstacles in the path of peace. Romania, like other world nations, must have realised by now that Shamir wants to impose hegemony on the Arab region and to expand in Arab lands. We do not believe that Romania can and will achieve anything from its current attempts to influence Shamir and make him change his position whatever efforts it might exert in this respect. Romania should realise that Shamir cannot be forced to back down from his intransigent position and is a person with whom no fruitful dialogue can be launched because he is intent on following a course of terrorism, destruction and war.

Al Dustour: Israel playing with Soviets

WHILE Yitzhak Shamir was visiting Romania for talks with its leaders about the Middle East his Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was leaking news about alleged secret meeting held between Israeli and Soviet diplomats in West Germany. These two Israeli leaders are each trying to make moves on the diplomatic scene designed primarily to win support from the Israeli electorate in the coming general elections. The two leaders are no doubt pursuing efforts that can serve their individual interests. While Shamir is trying to advocate the cause of the Soviet Jewish community's emigration to Israel through Romania, Peres is trying to show his electorate that it is only through his party's efforts that anything of this kind can be achieved. The Soviets are obviously trying to show more flexibility and trying also to remove some of the obstacles before an international Middle East peace conference, but the Israelis are trying to exploit the situation and flexibility on Moscow's part. They are trying to show Moscow as retreating from its traditional policy with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict. At the same time, the Israelis are adhering to their own intransigent position and not showing any flexibility in their position towards the proposed conference. These Israeli moves can only be described as manoeuvres and attempts to distort Moscow's position and to show that the Soviets have now sold out the Arabs in return for their presence at the international conference.

Sawt Al Shaab: Industrial effort paying off

JORDAN'S participation in the Damascus International Fair reflects the fact that Jordan's national products have reached a high standard and are now competing with other countries' products in quantity and quality. Jordan's products at the fair include engineering, electrical and pharmaceutical items in addition to furniture and materials and components used in industry and the paper industry. The fact that these products have reached an advanced position is largely due to the opportune climate created in the Kingdom which encouraged production. The government has offered local industry sufficient protection, exemption from taxes, and other lucrative incentives enabling Jordanian factories to go ahead with plans to improve the quality of their products. Products from 175 Jordanian institutions being displayed now in Damascus reflect also the vast economic development in the country and also manifests Syria's interest in promoting its trade with Jordan. Through wise moves on the part of the Jordanian government the Kingdom's economy has been revived and is making successes in Arab markets.

Kuwaiti economy returning to normal

The economic disasters of the early 1980s are being slowly overcome in Kuwait despite the periodic crises of the Gulf war. Tony Walker analyses the state's progress.

KUWAIT — Amid deep anxiety about the Gulf war and political troubles at home, Kuwait is taking tentative steps to stimulate its economy, only now emerging from a deep recession following a 1982 stock market crash.

But caution remains the watchword for Kuwaiti officials. They wish to avoid a repetition of past mistakes, when the oil boom fuelled an atmosphere of unrestrained speculation in shares and real estate, contributing to an almost inevitable bust.

The 1987-88 budget, published at the end of June, provides for a relatively modest 3.4 per cent increase in spending over the previous year, the bulk of it accounted for by increases in wages and salaries.

Similarly, the central bank is exercising strict control over monetary growth which reached a staggering 81.4 per cent in 1981 before falling to minus 18 per cent at the height of the recession in 1984.

"Things are getting back to normal," said Imad Moosa, an economist with the Kuwait International Investment Company. "Kuwait's economy is now behaving like a normal free market economy, although it is still a developing country."

Attitudes in the banks, investment houses, trading companies and in the government itself remain wary, however.

The nervousness of Kuwaiti investors is reflected in the

periodic bouts of capital flight that greet moments of crisis linked with the Iran-Iraq war. The central bank has sought to restrain capital outflow by adjusting the value of the Kuwaiti dinar against the dollar.

Government efforts to restore confidence to the economy after the Souk Al Manakh stock market crash, which left local banks with debts of \$15 billion, much of it unsecured, appear to be making progress.

The stock market has recovered somewhat; the average price of shares rose 41 per cent in 1986 following a 55 per cent drop the year before. According to an index published by Al Shall Economic Consultants, shares appreciated a further 30 per cent in the first three months of this year.

"Everything here depends on the health of the stock market," said Moosa. "If it's in good shape so is the economy."

He attributed the recovery in the value of stock to decisions taken earlier this year to lower interest rates, the splitting of shares into smaller par values to encourage broader ownership and permission granted to companies to acquire 10 per cent of their own shares.

Government purchases of stock are also contributing to the recovery. It reportedly now owns more than 50 per cent of shares in Kuwait's 44 publicly listed companies.

A settlement programme announced in August 1986 to deal with the mountain of debt left over from Souk Al Manakh crash has contributed to a revival of confidence in the banking sector.

Under the scheme, debtors with a positive net worth are required to meet their obligations at risk of foreclosure. If, however, the debtor has a negative net worth, the banks are to divide liabilities into two parts, covered by a low interest loan equal to the amount of assets and an interest-free promissory note for the rest.

At the end of 10 years the loans would be paid up and the notes written off, the banks having made necessary provisions. Meanwhile, the central bank would have compensated the individual banks for the reduced income resulting from participation in the programme.

This ingenious scheme has generally been welcomed in Kuwaiti business circles as a reasonable solution to a tangled web of indebtedness that had contributed to a virtual paralysis in the local economy.

A problem for the banks and for the government itself is that a number of big creditors, some of whom are close to the ruling family, are under-declaring assets abroad and are therefore benefiting disproportionately from the central bank sponsored "bailout."

This is causing resentment in banking circles and among some Kuwaiti professionals.

"Why should I reschedule on zero interest when these guys have huge undeclared assets

involved in creating what is to be called the Medical Treatment Corporation which will be charged with matters related to offering medical treatment to people on the national level. This corporation, the paper said, will also be in charge of training students of medicine and paramedics in cooperation with community colleges and universities. The Health Ministry will thus be left with handling the primary health care, preventive medicine and general health, the paper added.

The working paper proposed a set of regulations to improve the status of any government employee, like allowing male and female employees to have leave to work abroad or to attend a course and to continue his or her higher education.

A married woman, according to the new system, will be allowed a long leave to give proper care for children or to attend her sick husband etc.

The system, the paper said, also offers incentives such as extra allowances for competence and new qualifications, and allows employees the right to fair competition in seeking higher posts.

The new system, the paper noted, has an important feature; minimising routine and bureaucratic work and simplifying procedures for any business and this is designed to give a better and more speedy service to the public.

They also included calls for a national strategy for manpower training and development including pre-training for all civil service posts and to link training and job promotion.

The paper also noted that the new system empowers a minister to authorise a representative in any province on matters that require prompt action.

The paper noted that the new system creates what will come to be known as the Civil Service Board (CSB) which will be chaired by the deputy prime minister and will have one of the concerned ministers in each case as member, in addition to the president of the CSC and a team of senior government employees in administrative fields.

According to the paper, the CSB will be charged with laying down a general policy for public administrative development and revising civil service systems for introducing amendments to them and also endorsing programmes and plans for training employees.

The CSB will also be authorised to offer recommendations on matters connected with salaries and allowances for the civil servants and also in matters related to recruiting, training and absorbing manpower to work inside the Kingdom and abroad.

In his paper, Mr. Izzeddine said the RCAR had finalised a study on a new civil service system which, when endorsed, is expected to give more momentum to the process of administrative development itself.

Mr. Izzeddine said that the new system was characterised by the following features:

First, it is a national comprehensive system defining the relationship between the state and the civil servant in any government department.

Second, the new system stresses the concept of administrative development through legislation which would result in the creation of units for training and modernising government and public administration function. The laws would enable government departments to develop while their staff continue to raise their standard and efficiency.

Third, the system would transform acquired experience by any of the government departments into practical methods for handling various problems impeding civil service work. This will be done also through special legislation which will give precise description for each job.

These legislations will divide government employees into four categories, or groups, the first

being those with leading positions, the second grouping employees with specialised jobs, the third being a group of employees involved in administrative and clerical jobs and the fourth group will embody those undertaking complementary jabs.

The working paper proposed a set of regulations to improve the status of any government employee, like allowing male and female employees to have leave to work abroad or to attend a course and to continue his or her higher education.

Under the first resolution, the world body would go forward with a second resolution that calls for an embargo on arms sales to either party which rejects the ceasefire call.

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Preservation of Islamic monuments in Jordan

By Ghazi Bisheh

This article is reprinted from a special issue of *Arts and the Islamic World*

ISLAMIC monuments in Jordan are remarkably numerous and varied. They are scattered over a large geographical region and span more than a thousand years, extending from the Umayyad period, through the Ayyubid-Mamluke time, to the end of Ottoman rule. Many of these monuments have undergone varying degrees of consolidation and restoration work; others were simply fenced round and permanent guards were appointed for the sake of safeguarding and protection. A proper consideration of the subject proposed by the title should obviously include all the Islamic buildings in Jordan which in one way or another underwent some restoration.

However, there is a practical problem in dealing with considerable and immensely varied monuments (mosques, baths, forts, palaces etc.) in a short essay like this. Therefore, it is perhaps more profitable to limit ourselves to three examples of recent restoration works which serve to identify the positive and negative aspects of such activities. The three examples were chosen not only because of my greater familiarity with the monuments, but also because they are historically and geographically related to each other, and best illustrate the problems which the Department of Antiquities of Jordan faces in carrying out its restoration pro-

jects. The three monuments chosen for this short essay are two bath-houses — Qasr Amra and Hammam Al Sarah — and a little mosque built in the immediate vicinity of Qasr Al Hallabat.

They were all built during the first half of the eighth century in the north and northeastern steppes of Jordan.

Qasr Amra: This little bathhouse, which stands on the edge of Wadi Al Batum (Wadi of the tamarisk trees) is situated about 85 kilometres to the east of Amman and 25 kilometres to the southwest of the oasis of Azraq. It is built of roughly shaped, hard limestone blocks, except for the jambs, the monolithic lintel, and the relieving arch above the doorway, which are built of basalt. The plan consists of three main elements:

i. A rectangular audience-hall roofed with three tunnel-vaults resting on the side walls and two central transverse arches.

ii. The bath complex, which consists of three rooms respectively roofed with a tunnel-vault, a cross-vault and a dome.

iii. The hydraulic structures, which include a coursed masonry well, an elevated water-tank and a saqiyah (the apparatus for drawing water from the well into the water-tank).

The building is now in an excellent state of preservation with extensive fresco paintings which cover virtually all the interior surfaces. It was discovered by the Austrian, Alois Musil, in 1898. Soon afterwards, Musil made two additional trips to the monument, the third in the company of a

painter, Meilich, who copied the paintings, which copies were published by the Academy of Vienna.

Since Musil's rediscovery, the paintings became smoke blackened by the campfires of Bedouins, who pitched their tents near the monument in the spring. Additional damage was caused by visitors and passers-by who scratched their names on the painted surfaces. Perceiving the precarious and deteriorating condition of the paintings, the Department of Antiquities of Jordan commissioned a Spanish team from the National Museum of Madrid to clean the fresco paintings and to consolidate the building, especially the fractured western vault of the audience-hall. This task was accomplished during three seasons of work in the years 1971, 1972 and 1973.

The clearance work was accompanied by a survey of the vicinity of the building, by limited soundings to elucidate certain points of detail, and by consolidation of the fractured western wall by grouting and inserting stainless metal ties and dowels. The result of these works was documented with detailed plans, elevations and photographs, as the proper procedure required, and published in a neatly produced book.

The main task of the Spanish team, however, was the cleaning of the fresco paintings on account of their aesthetic and historical value. This task was carried out scrupulously without tampering with the original appearance of the paintings through brightening up of the colours or filling in missing parts. Only gaps and a few sections of fallen plaster were filled in with patches of yellowish rendering to prevent additional plaster from flaking off. Thanks to these restorations, the building and its fresco paintings are now in a fairly good state of preservation.

However, in the last two years a major highway was built across the desert between Muwaqqar and Azraq, passing by Qasr Amra at a distance of some 250 metres to the south. This highway made the monument more easily accessible, but, on the other hand, it affected the environmental and natural setting which is a major factor in the building's attraction. It now remains to be seen, through a long-term monitoring, to what degree the vibrations and exhaust fumes of heavy lorries will affect the building and its paintings. Another hazard to which Qasr Amra used to be subjected was the flashfloods caused by the sporadic rains which fall in heavy cloudbursts. This danger was alleviated by

The mosque of Qasr Al Hallabat, south wall and Mihrab before reconstruction (above), and after restoration (below)



The mosque of Qasr Al Hallabat, interior of western wall

raising the level of the adjacent wadi bank and building earthen berms to the south and southwest of the monument.

Hammam Al Sarah: This monument is situated about 55 kilometres to the northeast of Amman and about 45 kilometres to the northwest of Qasr Amra. Its plan is strikingly similar to Qasr Amra, though its masonry is better finished and its courses are more tightly joined. Hammam Al Sarah was visited by H.C. Butler, director of the Princeton University Archaeological Expedition to Syria, in 1905 and 1909. The building remained in a fairly good state of preservation until the beginning of the fifth decade of this century.

Since then, however, the bath has been subjected to a systematic pilfering which destroyed most of the eastern half, including the Mihrab. In the autumn of 1984, the excavation of the mosque was completed and partial restoration was carried out. This included the reconstruction of the lower courses of the south wall, together with the Mihrab, the flight of three stairs which led up to the eastern portico and the consolidation of the eastern portico wall. Since quite a large num-

ber of the original stones are still available on the site, additional restoration is planned for the autumn of 1987.

Any restoration project depends for its success on the existence of adequate supervision, skilled technical workers, and proper logistics and documentary preparation. However, in a small country like Jordan, with a vast number of archaeological monuments to be preserved, such a combination is not always possible. This is mainly due to the lack of qualified personnel and skilled technical workers, who are constantly being lured away and attracted by better salaries in the private sector. The shortage of skilled workers is a serious problem which must be overcome before the Department of Antiquities can begin to make significant progress in its programme of restoration of ancient monuments. A first step has already been taken to solve this problem by setting up a training programme for young personnel with in-field instruction. Many of these young trainees have already acquired reasonable experience and are now employed in the Jerash restoration project.

In the early 1950s, the building was subjected to a systematic pilfering which destroyed most of the eastern half, including the Mihrab. In the autumn of 1984, the excavation of the mosque was completed and partial restoration was carried out. This included the reconstruction of the lower courses of the south wall, together with the Mihrab, the flight of three stairs which led up to the eastern portico and the consolidation of the eastern portico wall. Since quite a large num-

The dome has long since collapsed, but originally it was built with nineteen projecting ribs composed of long, thin, wedge-shaped pieces of shale; the filling between the ribs was of shale, too. The dome was pierced by small circular windows, some of which had already become large holes when Creswell visited the building in 1926. The roof, as reconstructed, shows a low, conical cupola which differs sharply from the original one. Furthermore, the arched opening above the furnace's passage way at its northern end appears in some early photographs as being slightly pointed. In the reconstruction, the arch has acquired a semi-circular shape with a stepped facade above it.

The Mosque of Qasr Al Hallabat: This monument is situated about 2 kilometres to the west of Hammam Al Sarah. The Hammam, the Mosque, and the reconstruction of Qasr Al Hallabat with elaborate decorations in mosaics, carved stucco and fresco painting, were apparently all part of the same architectural programme.

The mosque, which measures 11.77 x 10.70 metres internally, is built of finely dressed limestone blocks on its inner and outer faces with a filling of limestone rubble and mortar. The interior is di-



The mosque of Qasr Al Hallabat, south wall and Mihrab before reconstruction (above), and after restoration (below)



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Randa Habib's
Corner

A question of alternatives

THE recent decision that the Ministry of Higher Education is not "committed" to issue university degree equivalence to students who do not have the required tawjih degrees is the hot subject of all gatherings in Amman these days. Most people are criticising the decision saying that it interferes with their children's right to choose their future career.

After bearing the clarifications given by Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad at the Monday Press Circle and considering the statistics of unemployment among doctors and engineers, I understand the motives of the step taken by the Ministry of Higher Education.

However, I think that such a decision should have been preceded by a realistic awareness campaign by the ministry; if you want to convince people to stop being doctors and engineers, you also have to show them the alternatives.

Let us face it. Our problem is basically social. We have too many doctors and engineers because more than half of the population considers it "great" to be a doctor or an engineer. But if the ministry works out a public awareness campaign on the available alternatives — "new jobs" — explaining what a specialisation in computer sciences or other technical fields could mean a lot of people will stop dreaming of being doctors or engineers.

Had the decision of the Ministry of Higher Education come after such a campaign it may not have raised such a general outcry. In fact, maybe it wouldn't even have been necessary to take such a decision as the problem might have solved itself.

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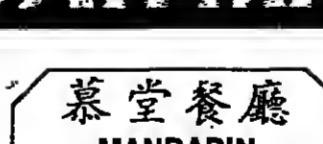
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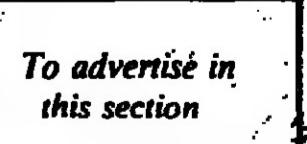
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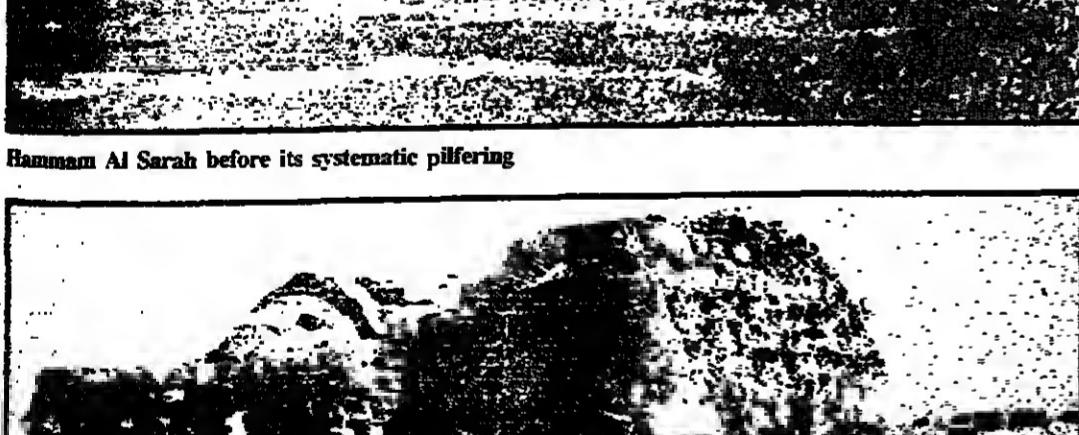
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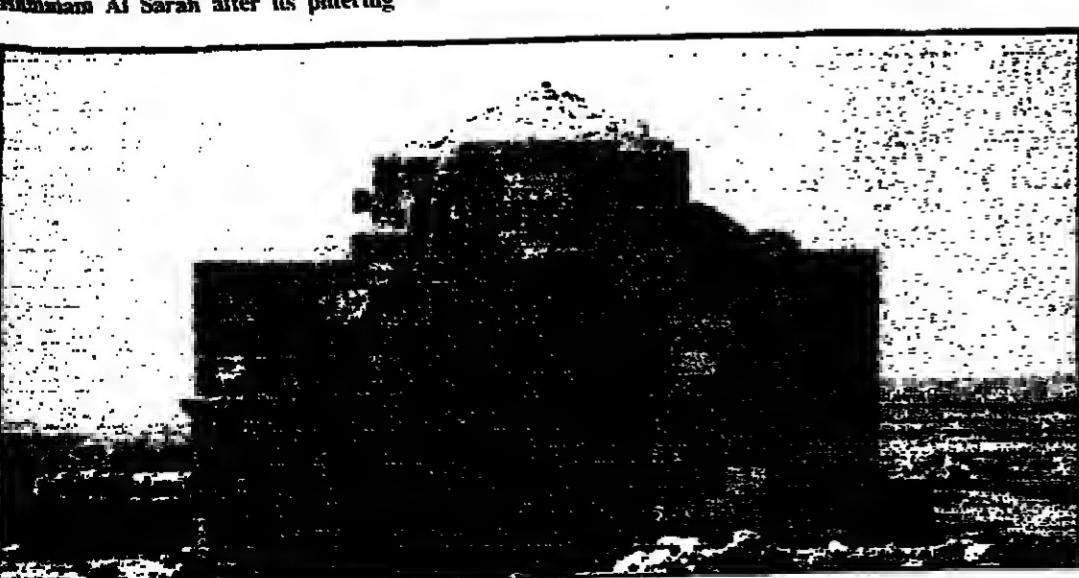
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Hammam Al Sarah before its systematic pilfering



Hammam Al Sarah after its pilfering



Hammam Al Sarah as reconstructed in 1974, looking south

Asian handball championships begin today

By Rania Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The fourth male and first female Asian handball championships kick off today under royal patronage with 11 countries fielding teams for the events.

The championships, which will be held at the indoor gymnasium of the Sports Palace, will be the biggest tournament in terms of the number of entries, according to Asian Handball Federation (AHF) Secretary General Syad Abul Hassan.

The countries participating in the championship include China, Japan, South Korea, Syria, Taiwan, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Palestine, Nepal and Bahrain. The latter five countries are fielding only male teams to take part in the events, which will last until Aug. 30.

Nine organising, technical and administrative committees have been formed to supervise preparations for the games.

A three-day seminar for international-level referees has also taken place in preparation for the championship. The seminar held

on Monday, included lectures and illustrations on the technical aspects and rules of the game.

A large number of Jordanian youth have volunteered their services in receiving the foreign teams participating in the championships.

Activities for the first day will include a men's match between Jordan and Nepal and a ladies' match between South Korea and Japan. The opening ceremony before the matches will include a show of Jordanian folk dances and music.

The AHF is expected to hold a

special meeting to assess this year's event as well as prepare for the next championship, slated for 1993, Mr. Abul Hassan told the Jordan Times.

Members of the Jordanian ladies team interviewed by the Jordan Times expressed enthusiasm over the event. "This is the first international challenge of its kind for most of the team's members," said 21-year-old Basma Ghazzawi, who has been playing the sport for five years. "We have been training for this championship since September 1986."

In preparation for the event, the ladies team has attended two camps this year in Syria and Iraq. "The games we played there were important for us since they improved our performance and skills," said Muayyad Awamleh.

"In general, training for this championship has been intense," added Ahlam Haddad, who has been playing for the national team since 1980. "It is a very good experience for us because it represents a chance for us to play against tough teams and to gain some playing experience."

The Ministry of Youth has contributed toward financing the championships through some of its funds "allocated" to the Jordanian Handball Federation, said Dr. Ibrahim, head of the Jordanian team and a member of the higher organising committee.

Kuwait has also supported the games through the efforts of Sheikh Fahed Al Ahmad, president of the AHF and a member of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Abul Hassan said. Sheikh Fahed Al Ahmad arrived in Amman Wednesday for the championship.

The AHF is expected to hold a

Brazil eliminates Mexico in Pan Am soccer semifinal marred by fistfight

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Brazil beat Mexico 1-0 in extra time in the Pan American Games soccer semifinal on Tuesday night in a wild match that saw two players sent off, nine cautioned, after a half-time brawl and the referee led off the field by police.

Seconds after U.S. referee Angelo Bratiss turned down a penalty appeal by Mexico with just two minutes to go in the second half of extra time, an assistant trainer came off the bench to trip Brazilian defender Nezinho as he ran down the wing with the ball.

It was not immediately known who the trainer was and whether

he would face sanctions from the sport's governing body.

A scene of confusion ensued as police and games security staff came onto the field as Bratiss was surrounded by angry Mexican players.

After about five minutes, Bratiss left the field with his two linesmen and five minutes later the stadium announced said the game was over and Brazil had won.

The public area behind the sports and soccer centre stand was sealed off by police and security officials and the estimated 10,000 fans were told to leave by one end only.

The match between Brazil and Mexico was ugly from the start and there was no score after a foul-ridden first half. As the players left the field at the interval, Mexican captain Fernando Quirante kicked the ball at the Brazilian bench and as the players went through the narrow passageway leading to the dressing rooms, a furious fistfight erupted.

FIFA officials declined to comment on the incident and said only that the referee had ended the game. Brazil now advances to Friday's final against Chile, who upset favoured Argentina 3-2 earlier in the day.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Italian climber plans to ski down Everest

BOLZANO, Italy (R) — An Italian climber who specialises in fast mountain ascents hopes to make a new name for himself — by skiing down Mount Everest. Reinhard Patscheider, 30, told a news conference on Tuesday he planned to climb Everest solo and without oxygen before making the fastest possible descent using a pair of extra-long 1.3-metre (four feet seven inch) skis. Patscheider has scaled Nepal's Mount Annapurna with Italian-born Reinhold Messner and holds the record for the fastest ascent of the North of the Eiger, in Switzerland.

Tennis player declared ineligible

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A Brazilian tennis player was declared ineligible to participate in the Pan American Games because of "his extensive prize-money winnings," tennis officials said. The membership of Nelson Aerts in the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) also was cited by the games' tennis eligibility committee as evidence of his professional status. The amateur status of Aerts and Fernando Roese, also a member of the Brazilian team, was challenged by the Costa Rican tennis delegation. Roese is not a member of the ATP and there was not sufficient other evidence to declare him ineligible, the committee said on Tuesday.

Moorhouse betters own record

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — Briton Adrian Moorhouse set a European 100 metres breaststroke record in 1 minute 02.13 seconds Tuesday to win the European title ahead of Soviet Dimitri Volkov. In the women's 100 metres freestyle, East German world champion Kristin Otto fought back from behind to win ahead of compatriot Manuela Stellmach and Romanian Tamara Costache. British veteran Moorhouse improved his European record by .15 seconds to maintain his European title. He was trailing Volkov at midway but overcame the challenge in the home straight. Volkov finished .30 seconds behind the winner. Italian Gianni Minervini took bronze in 1:02.66 seconds.

Minter upsets Sukova in 2nd round of player's tennis

TORONTO (R) — Unheralded Australian Anne Minter stunned defending champion Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia 6-3, 6-1 in the second round of the \$250,000 Player's Challenge Women's Tennis tournament on Tuesday night.

Minter, ranked 50th in the world, hit passing shots at will against the fourth seed and reeled off seven straight games from midway in the first set.

The match was fairly even until the seventh game of the first set. Minter passed Sukova down the middle, lobbed over her head, beat her to the right side and then the left to break the powerful

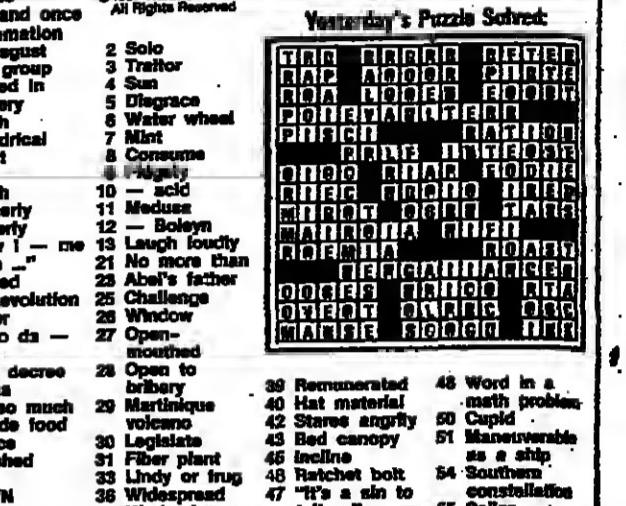
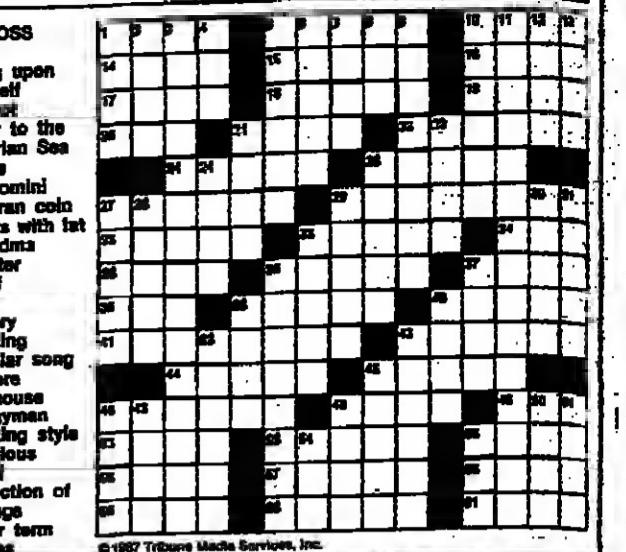
serve-and-volleyer's serve at love.

"She kept attacking, but my groundstrokes were just so accurate," said Minter. "When she hit her forehand I found that I had a lot of time to set up. I also was seeing the ball really early."

Sukova, ranked sixth in the world, hit passing shots at will against the fourth seed and reeled off seven straight games from midway in the first set.

The match was fairly even until the seventh game of the first set. Minter passed Sukova down the middle, lobbed over her head, beat her to the right side and then the left to break the powerful

THE Daily Crossword



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9- Khalil Suliman	E. Hamidieh	Owner	Suliman	48.5
10- Salman Hisham Nabulsi	Rihann	Owner	Rashed	48.5
11- A. El Hejaz Awad	N. Maaten	Owner	A. Amarah	48.5

THIRD RACE 5.00 FOR SECOND CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Mohammad Maesh Mitak	I. Kair	Owner	Mahmoud	57.5
2- Mohammad Maesh Mitak	S.A. El Salam	Owner	Fawaz	52.5
3- Mohammad A. El Jali	E. Salib	Owner	Suliman	57
4- Mashmoush F. Jnab	N. B. Salt	Owner	Adnan	57
5- Abdullaah El Jnab	J. Daly	Owner	Ahmad	57
6- Mohammad A. El Jnab	Makadeer	Owner	George	57
7- D. A. El Hafeez A. Wandy	Z. Maseen	Owner	Mwafak	57
8- Mohammad Khalil Marley	S. Hazim	Owner	Yousef	57
9- Mohammad Khalil Marley	D. Omar	Owner	Shahab	56
10- Bassi Yousef	Gharesb	Owner	M. Ajmal	55
11- Shibly Awad El Faiez	E. Saklaweh	Owner	Mousa	53.5

FIFTH RACE 6.00 FOR SECOND AND THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1600 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Nimir El Hmoud	Sahir	Mahmoud	A. Jacheel	48.5
2- Nimir El Hmoud	Rum	Mahmoud	A. Jacheel	48.5
3- Nimir El Hmoud	Atlas	Minkareem	Adnan	62
4- Ziad Samy Madros	Shihab	Owner	Mousa	65.5
5- Faisal Awad El Faiez	A. El Taib	Owner	Nimah	58
6- Mishal El Faiez	Van	Owner	A. Jaber	58
7- Mishal El Faiez	Kahriathom	Owner	A. Jaber	48.5

FOURTH RACE 5.30 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1600 METRES

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6080/90	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3310/20	Canadian dollar
	1.8458/65	West German marks
2.0795/0805		Dutch guilders
1.5280/90		Swiss francs
38.33/36		Belgian francs
6.1680/1710		French francs
1336/1337		Italian lira
145.70/80		Japanese yen
6.4425/75		Swedish crowns
6.7425/75		Norwegian crowns
7.0975/1025		Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	455.50/456.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares were still depressed, but above the lows seen around midday as Wall Street's steeper opening dispelled the market's worst fears. Dealers said trading remained thin and extremely nervous ahead of important U.K. economic data on Thursday.

There was little retail interest, with most of Wednesday's decline reflecting a general mark-down by market-makers. Some issues with a large ADR profile posted substantial falls on Tuesday's Wall Street decline, Glaxo falling 27p to 1,740. But Iogen held unchanged at 562 after Tuesday's results. At 1415 GMT the FTSE 100 was 30.6 lower at 2,194.2.

Kenneth Inglis, U.K. equities strategist at Phillips and Drew said, "I suspect the FTSE will not fall much further from here." Two weeks ago, base rates rose by one point to 10 per cent and both U.K. Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson and the Bank of England have expressed concern over the level of borrowing.

There are fears that the consumer boom could be translated into higher imports later in the year and that the economy should have the brake applied. Speculation continues as to whether the recent one-point base rate rise will be enough.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Use tact and diplomacy in dealings with your family and show them how much they mean to you. Today is good for attending to problems connected with property.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Avoid an argument with a family friend which could bring dire results. Plan some home repair projects; get estimates.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be cautious when dealing with business associates today. Remain calm at all times and don't lose your temper.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Don't argue about the cost of an article with someone in business. Someone who is eyeing your assets should be avoided.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Drive with the utmost care today and tonight. Try to put yourself into your opponent's shoes.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You can catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar, so use your charm to settle disputes which may arise.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 21) Visit with friends this afternoon, but don't stay too late. Spend the evening with your mate and talk things over.

LIBRA (Sept. 22 to Oct. 21) Talk over your social plans with an influential friend. If you handle a civic matter wisely, you can gain prestige.

SCORPIO (Oct. 22 to Nov. 21) Taking a short trip right now would yield much information, but be extremely cautious when driving or walking.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure to gain the approval of your mate before you get into any new financial ventures which are risky.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Handle business quickly so that you'll have time for romance tonight. A little gift of flowers would be great.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be sure to settle any disputes with business associates before leaving work for the day. Keep your temper.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Try not to disappoint someone who is relying on you. Use your creative talents to finish your work quite quickly.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be cautious and will always want to know the facts before getting into new situations. Your progeny will be one of those people who will always finish projects successfully and conscientiously once starting them. Your son or daughter will be very romantic.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You must use special care not to do anything which might be misunderstood or make your family disappointed in you. The evening will be more relaxed and productive.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Plan an activity which will bring your family together and create a happy state of mind. Don't be extravagant.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Do some entertaining at your home this evening, but only invite guests who are trustworthy. Avoid any arguments.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Don't create any new financial burdens today. Be wary of a newcomer who may attempt to con you tonight.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You may have the feeling that you're not getting the help you deserve, but the mood changes tonight.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Stop keeping a secret from one who deserves to know the truth. The time is not right for putting that new plan into action.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 21) Be wary of a fast talker who may try to talk you into something which would take up far too much of your time.

LIBRA (Sept. 22 to Oct. 21) Avoid irritating someone in authority today. Get together with an old friend and have a fine time together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 22 to Nov. 21) Avoid an outsider who is irate and avoid an unfortunate confrontation. Be sure to drive carefully this evening.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't lose your temper over a purchase which seems frivolous. Your mate may be disturbed, so be kind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A meeting with a partner could lead to a big quarrel today. Enjoy romance with your mate this evening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Your work may seem boring, but remain cheerful and get it done more quickly. Avoid any quarrels with co-workers.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Any plans for recreation should be postponed. Your mate may be suspicious and try to make trouble, but ignore it.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have to learn not to take sights so seriously and to become more objective. A good education will provide your progeny with the opportunity for fantastic success. He or she will have the ability to organize and oversee large projects without difficulty.

First Yugoslavian firm goes bankrupt under new tough law

BELGRADE (R) — About 1,600 construction workers lost their jobs when communist Yugoslavia Tuesday declared the first casualty of a tough new bankruptcy law aimed at rooting out loss-making firms from the country's beleaguered economy.

The victim, a company called Titograd which is one of the biggest construction firms in the relatively poor Montenegro region, retained 1,000 of its 2,600 workers to finish existing building contracts, the national news agency Tanjug reported.

But they may also be made redundant later, an announcement carried by the agency said.

It said the move had been "on the cards" for years but was something new to Yugoslavia's self-management economic system.

Prime Minister Branko Mikulic, struggling to reduce an annual inflation rate running at 105 per cent and a \$20 billion foreign debt, warned earlier this year that firms which continued to make losses must go bust.

Loss-making Yugoslav firms have traditionally been bailed out by state subsidies, by banks in which they hold shares, or by cash injections from profitable enterprises which have been subjected to liquidity strains themselves.

Political commentators in Belgrade have said the bankruptcy law could prompt renewed worker unrest if applied to many Yugoslav enterprises.

British bank turns in losses after allocation for bad debts

LONDON (R) — Standard Chartered Plc of Britain Tuesday became the latest big bank to set aside a large sum against doubtful debts, a measure that resulted in losses for the first half of 1987 and will mean it has to sell off assets.

Special debt provisions totaling £503.2 million (\$805 million) were "a major setback for this year," senior deputy chairman Sir Peter Graham told reporters.

He also identified operations in the United States, Canada and Malaysia as trouble spots.

The bank reported a pretax loss for the first half of 1987 of £24.2 million (\$35.87 million), after a profit of £131 million (\$210 million) in the same period last year.

Sir Graham said Standard Chartered expected to raise some £300 million (\$480 million) from sales of what the bank called "non-core assets" over the next year to shore up its capital base.

He gave no details but said: "We have an ample supply of family silver."

The bank's central bank has postponed a plan to support the crumbling Lebanese lira which would have forced banks to raise their deposits with it, Finance Minister Aj Hashem said Wednesday.

Some private banks had hinted they would go on strike if the central bank insisted on its "circular 73," originally due to be implemented earlier this month.

The decree would have raised private bank deposits with the central bank from 13 to 16 per cent of their capital and fixed banks which did not comply.

Mr. Hashem told reporters it would be postponed for two months until a joint committee studies ways to amend the circular or agree on a new compromise.

He earlier chaired a meeting between central bank governor, Mr. Edmund Nairn and officials

Third World owes less to U.S. banks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The debt that developing countries owe to U.S. commercial banks dropped in the first three months of this year, according to figures from the Federal Reserve system.

Total debt in Asia was down by \$676 million in March from December 1986, in Latin America by \$596 million and in Africa by \$106 million, according to figures from the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council released this month. Debt owed by oil-exporting areas dropped \$910 million.

Developing countries depend heavily on banks for capital to make new investments in farms and factories that they hope will raise the standard of living.

Several countries, however, have suspended payment on principal and even interest: Brazil, Ivory Coast, Ecuador, Bolivia and Sudan, among others. Banks are collecting old debts when they can and are cautious about lending more.

The net amount owed in Latin America, the big problem area, fell from \$67.66 billion to \$67.08 billion.

Mexico's debt to American banks dropped to \$23.34 billion to \$2.9 billion.

Lebanon defers banking regulation to support lira

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's central bank has postponed a plan to support the crumbling Lebanese lira which would have forced banks to raise their deposits with it, Finance Minister Aj Hashem said Wednesday.

Some private banks had hinted they would go on strike if the central bank insisted on its "circular 73," originally due to be implemented earlier this month.

The decree would have raised private bank deposits with the central bank from 13 to 16 per cent of their capital and fixed banks which did not comply.

Mr. Hashem told reporters it would be postponed for two months until a joint committee studies ways to amend the circular or agree on a new compromise.

Meanwhile, about 500 workers at Lebanon's central bank went on strike Wednesday to mark the disappearance of three colleagues, feared kidnapped two years ago.

Commercial banks also stopped work for one hour in sympathy for the missing workers.

Licensed entrepreneurs can open bank accounts and obtain bank loans, it said. Self-employed individuals or families can hire one or two helpers or three to five apprentices.

The regulations forbid self-employed people from speculating, swindling, smuggling, illegally driving up prices, deceiving customers about the quality of goods, rigging measuring scales, selling fake or unsanitary goods, selling reactionary or pornographic publications, and evading taxes.

The China Daily said Wednesday the state council, China's cabinet, has issued the first national law covering private business. It will go into effect Sept. 1.

Under the law, rural villagers and unemployed urban residents can start private shops after getting a license from local author-

Dealers change view over dollar

TOKYO (R) — Asian dealers said they see a further battering of the dollar even after Wednesday's heavy sell-off on a gloomy outlook for the U.S. trade balances.

"Dollar selling interest is so strong that the unit is poised for a further decline and may fall below 140 yen before long," said Mr. Koichi Miyazaki of Sanwa Bank.

Many dealers doubted Japanese central bank intervention alone would be enough. They expect other Western central banks to regulate the dollar's decline through intervention.

"If the dollar falls through 140 yen, U.S. and European central banks are likely to intervene aggressively to support the currency, possibly with concerted action," Mr. Wai said.

Too sharp a drop of the dollar through 140 yen, even though it would help its trade situation, because it could fan prospect of higher long-term interest rates there, said one Tokyo dealer.

In London, fear of intervention by central banks braked a new slide in the value of the dollar Wednesday, but currency dealers said the sell-off could resume.

The dollar in Europe dipped as low as 145.15 Japanese yen and 1.8370 Deutsche marks before rallying a little as reports of dollar purchases by the Bank of Japan dealers to fear concerted central bank intervention to steady it.

"That stopped the fall and will be in people's minds today."

A week ago the dollar was buoyant, around 1.90 marks and comfortably above 150 yen. It had been helped since May by statements by the leading non-communist industrial nations, backed by central bank buying, that its fall by more than 40 per cent against major currencies since 1985 had gone far enough.

Investors around the world sold dollars this week. Selling was brisk in New York Tuesday night.

Wednesday, Japanese fund managers, banks and corporations scrambled to unload.

The Bank of Japan bought at least \$2 million, initially failing to break the slide but having the later effect of instilling caution into European markets when they opened.

The dollar drop has hit the booming stock markets. And, in a catch-22 bind, weakness on Wall Street helped send the dollar on down — by killing demand for the currency to buy U.S. stock.

On Monday, a gleeful Wall Street watched the Dow Jones industrial average celebrate the fifth year of a raging "bull" market by closing above 2,700 for the first time.

Tuesday, the Dow took its seventh biggest dive on record, sliding 45.31 points to end at 2,654.66.

"The weakness of the dollar has to be considered ominous," explained Mr. Michael Metz of Oppenheimer in New York Tuesday night. "It threatens one of the market's major supports, that being foreign demand for U.S. stocks."

The Bank of Japan is expected to continue to smooth the

Peanuts



Mutt'n Jeff



Andy Capp



JUMBLE

